

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 26, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Average temperatures ran at or above normal for the majority of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures were highest in north central Montana, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Temperatures were as many as 8 degrees above average in Hill County. In portions of the northwest, the eastern border, and in a few other isolated areas, temperatures were slightly below average. Precipitation levels were at or below normal. The exception was in a few minor areas in far southern Montana, where moisture levels received were about 0.3 inches above average. Changes in drought conditions were marginal, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released November 22, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free, as well as abnormally dry conditions, were again unchanged at 67 and 7 percent, respectively. Moderate drought stood at 21 percent, up from 18 percent last week. Severe drought was found in 5 percent of Montana, down 3 percentage points from last week. Cooler temperatures surfaced at the end of the week in Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, and Granite Counties. Colder temperatures were a concern in Ravalli County. Older and younger livestock were more susceptible to the colder nights. Grasses were plentiful and accessible to stock given the low snow cover. Given the lower nutrient levels in the cold season pastures, however, producers took care to provide livestock with adequate water, feed, and shelter in order to maintain body temperature, and to avoid loss and illness in herds.

Note: This report concludes the weekly crop progress report for 2023. Next year's Montana weekly report will begin in April 2024.

Monthly reports will be released for December on January 2, 2024; for January on January 29, 2024; for February on February 26, 2024; and for March on March 25, 2024.

Our thanks to the weekly reporters for providing crop progress observations during the 2023 season.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	93	91	98	NA
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	79	77	75	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	64	55	70	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	77	73	82	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	61	53	63	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work	5.4	5.8	0.5	NA
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	17	20	11	NA
Short	33	32	51	NA
Adequate.....	49	46	38	NA
Surplus.....	1	2	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	36	34	38	NA
Short	25	27	45	NA
Adequate.....	38	37	17	NA
Surplus.....	1	2	--	NA

NA – not available

-- – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	1	--	NA
Poor	5	4	11	NA
Fair.....	37	37	45	NA
Good	21	21	31	NA
Excellent	37	37	13	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	16	19	27	NA
Poor	18	20	19	NA
Fair.....	24	24	20	NA
Good	39	35	34	NA
Excellent	3	2	--	NA

NA – not available

-- – zero